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CIA's Role Disputed In Viet Pacification

SAIGON, March 27 (AP)—An Agency for International Development official who resigned his post here last week claims that the CIA supervises the pacification program in South Vietnam.

Sidney J. Roche, 51, a retired army lieutenant colonel, charged in quitting his job as field coordinator for the New Life (hamlet) development program that 50,000 Vietnamese pacification workers were "recruited, trained and paid under the auspices of the Central Intelligence Agency."

"The guy must be making it up," retorted Ambassador Robert W. Komer today. Komer, who heads the U.S. pacification effort in which the New Life program plays a major part, said Roche had been involved in supply work and had "no contact whatsoever in more than a year with our other programs."

Komer, who was a member of the CIA for 14 years, declined to comment further.

But an official who is fully informed on the U.S. role in pacification said that the CIA provides "a fairly substantial part" of the equipment and funds for the program.

The source said CIA funding of the pacification program "is a matter of public knowledge." He said support of the program is being transferred to the Department of Defense.